

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data processing device that is connected to and in communication with a terminal device, comprising:

5 a communication unit connected to the terminal device through an external network;

 a memory unit comprising an image data storage area that stores therein image data;

10 a recognition setting unit that enables the terminal device to recognize the image data storage area in the memory unit as an external storage device so as to enable the terminal device to be accessible to the image data storage area;

 a data acquiring unit that acquires image data received by way of the communication unit from the external network;

15 a converting unit that converts the acquired image data acquired by the data acquiring unit through the communication unit into converted image data whose format is compatible with the terminal device; and

 a writing unit that writes the converted image data converted by the converting unit into the image data storage area.

20 2. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising;

 an image forming unit that forms a visible image on an image recording medium, the visible image being based on the acquired image data acquired by the data acquiring unit through the communication unit; and

a switching unit that performs on/off control to the writing unit based on a command signal.

3. The data processing device as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an input operation unit comprising a plurality of keys for inputting the command signal.
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4. The data processing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the switching unit provides a first mode that renders the writing unit on and the image forming unit off, a second mode that renders the writing unit on and the image forming unit on, and a third mode that renders the writing unit off and the image forming unit on, the switching unit selecting one of the first through third modes based on the command signal so that on/off control is performed with respect to the writing unit and the image forming unit.
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15 5. The data processing device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the memory unit further comprises a temporary storing region that temporarily storing the image data which has not been converted by the converting unit,

the data acquiring unit being arranged for writing the acquired image data acquired through the communication unit into the temporary storing region; and
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the recognition setting unit permitting the image data storage area to function as an expansion region of the temporary storing region while the writing unit is rendered off by the switching unit.
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6. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the memory unit further comprises a temporary storing
region that temporarily storing the image data which has not
been converted by the converting unit, the data acquiring unit
5 writing the acquired image data acquired through the communica-
tion unit into the temporary storing region.

7. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the communication unit is arranged to receive a fac-
simile data as the image data, the converting unit converting
10 the facsimile data acquired through the communication unit by
the data acquiring unit into image data in another format that
is compatible with the terminal device and in which data as to
the arrangement of a plurality of pages is embeddable.

8. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1,
15 further comprising a history writing unit that converts commu-
nication history data of the communication unit into a history
data compatible with the terminal device and writes the con-
verted history data into the image data storage area.

9. The data processing device as claimed in claim 8,
20 wherein the history writing unit comprises:

an update portion that updates a log file indicating a
plurality of data relating to data transmission and data re-
ception; and

25 a writing portion that writes the log file into the im-
age data storage area.

10. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the terminal device transmits to the image data stor-
age area the image data and destination command data added
thereto and indicative of the destination of the image data;
5 and the data processing device further comprising a data
transmission unit comprising:

10 a reading portion that reads the image data and the des-
tination command data from the image data storage area upon
entry of the image data into the image data storage area from
the terminal device; and

a transmitting portion that transmits the image data
based on the destination command data through the communica-
tion unit.

15 11. The data processing device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the image data storage area is divided into at least
first storage area and a second storage area for storing and
storing the image data written by the writing unit in the
first storage area and for sorting and storing the image data
transmitted from the terminal device in the second storage
20 area.

25 12. The data processing device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the destination command data includes a transmission
time data representing a time at which the image data is to be
transmitted to a destination, the transmitting portion trans-
mitting the image data to the destination based on the desti-

nation command data through the communication unit at the transmission time represented by the transmission time data.

13. The data processing device as claimed in claim 10,
wherein the image data is a facsimile data, and

5 wherein the communication unit is connected to an external facsimile machine through a network for transmitting the facsimile data thereto; and

the transmitting portion transmitting the facsimile data to the external facsimile machine based on the destination
10 command data through the communication unit.

14. The data processing device as claimed in claim 13,
wherein the communication unit comprises a line controlling portion connected to a public telephone network; and a modem connected to the line-controlling portion for converting the facsimile data to a communication signal to be transmitted via the public telephone network and for extracting the facsimile data by demodulating signals received from the public telephone network.

15. The data processing device as claimed in claim 1,
20 wherein the terminal device is provided with a Plug and Play function for automatically recognizing a device connected to and in communication with the terminal device; and

25 wherein the recognition setting unit uses the Plug and Play function provided in the terminal device to enable the terminal device to recognize the image data storage area in

the memory unit as the external storage device.

16. The data processing device as claimed in claim 15,
further comprising;

an image forming unit that forms a visible image on an
5 image recording medium, the visible image being based on the
acquired image data acquired by the data acquiring unit
through the communication unit; and

a switching unit that performs on/off control to the
writing unit based on a command signal.

10 17. The data processing device as claimed in claim 16,
further comprising an input operation unit comprising a plu-
rality of keys for inputting the command signal.

15 18. The data processing device as claimed in claim 16,
wherein the switching unit provides a first mode that renders
the writing unit on and the image forming unit off, a second
mode that renders the writing unit on and the image forming
unit on, and a third mode that renders the writing unit off
and the image forming unit on, the switching unit selecting
one of the first through third modes based on the command sig-
20 nal so that on/off control is performed with respect to the
writing unit and the image forming unit.

25 19. The data processing device as claimed in claim 16,
wherein the memory unit further comprises a temporary storing
region that temporarily stores the image data which has not
been converted by the converting unit,

the data acquiring unit being arranged for writing the acquired image data acquired through the communication unit into the temporary storing region; and

5 the recognition setting unit permitting the image data storage area to function as an expansion region of the temporary storing region while the writing unit is rendered off by the switching unit.

10 20. The data processing device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the memory unit further comprises a temporary storing region that temporarily storing the image data which has not been converted by the converting unit, the data acquiring unit writing the acquired image data acquired through the communication unit into the temporary storing region.

15 21. The data processing device as claimed in claim 15, wherein the communication unit is arranged to receive a facsimile data as the image data, the converting unit converting the facsimile data acquired through the communication unit by the data acquiring unit into image data in another format that is compatible with the terminal device and in which data as to 20 the arrangement of a plurality of pages is embeddable.

25 22. The data processing device as claimed in claim 15, further comprising a history writing unit that converts communication history data of the communication unit into a history data compatible with the terminal device and writes the converted history data into the image data storage area.

23. The data processing device as claimed in claim 22,
wherein the history writing unit comprises:

an updating portion that updates a log file indicating a
plurality of data relating to data transmission and data re-
ception; and

5 a writing portion that writes the log file into the im-
age data storage area.

24. The data processing device as claimed in claim 15,
wherein the terminal device transmits to the image data stor-
10 age area the image data and destination command data added
thereto and indicative of the destination of the image data;
and the data processing device further comprising a data
transmission unit comprising:

15 a reading portion that reads the image data and the des-
tination command data from the image data storage area upon
entry of the image data into the image data storage area from
the terminal device; and

20 a transmitting portion that transmits the image data
based on the destination command data through the communica-
tion unit.

25. The data processing device as claimed in claim 24,
wherein the image data storage area is divided into at least
first storage area and a second storage area for storing and
storing the image data written by the writing unit in the
first storage area and for sorting and storing the image data

transmitted from the terminal device in the second storage area.

26. The data processing device as claimed in claim 24,
wherein the destination command data includes a transmission
5 time data representing a time at which the image data is to be
transmitted to a destination, the transmitting portion trans-
mitting the image data to the destination based on the desti-
nation command data through the communication unit at the
transmission time represented by the transmission time data.

10 27. The data processing device as claimed in claim 24,
wherein the image data is a facsimile data, and

wherein the communication unit is connected to an exter-
nal facsimile machine through a network for transmitting the
facsimile data thereto; and

15 the transmitting portion transmitting the facsimile data
to the external facsimile machine based on the destination
command data through the communication unit.

20 28. The data processing device as claimed in claim 27,
wherein the communication unit comprises a line controlling
portion connected to a public telephone network; and a modem
connected to the line-controlling portion for converting the
facsimile data to a communication signal to be transmitted via
the public telephone network and for extracting the facsimile
data by demodulating signals received from the public
25 telephone network.

29. A facsimile machine comprising:

a scanner unit that reads an image of an original document;

5 a communication unit connected to a terminal device through a network;

a memory unit comprising an image data storage area that stores therein image data;

10 a recognition setting unit that enables the terminal device to recognize the image data storage area in the memory unit as an external storage device so as to enable the terminal device to be accessible to the image data storage area;

a data acquiring unit that acquires image data received by way of the communication unit from the external network;

15 a converting unit that converts the acquired image data acquired by the data acquiring unit through the communication unit into converted image data whose format is compatible with the terminal device; and

a writing unit that writes the converted image data converted by the converting unit into the image data storage area.

20 30. A data managing device for use in combination with the data processing device as claimed in claim 1, comprising:

a nonvolatile storage medium that stores image data;

25 a determination unit that makes judgment as to whether or not the image data has been stored in the external storage device in the data processing device;

a duplicating unit that writes the image data stored in the external storage device into the nonvolatile storage medium if the determination unit judges that the image data has been stored in the external storage device; and

5 a deletion unit that deletes the image data having been stored in the external storage device from the external storage device after writing the image data into the nonvolatile storage medium by the duplicating unit.

10 31. A storage medium that stores a program for permitting a facsimile machine to function as a data processing device, the facsimile machine including a communication unit connected to a terminal device through an external network, and a memory unit comprising an image data storage area that stores therein image data; the program comprising:

15 a program of enabling the terminal device to recognize the image data storage area in the memory unit as an external storage device so as to enable the terminal device to be accessible to the image data storage area;

20 a program of acquiring image data received by way of the communication unit from the external network;

 a program of converting the acquired image data through the communication unit into converted image data whose format is compatible with the terminal device; and

25 a program of writing the converted image data converted by the converting unit into the image data storage area.

32. A storage medium that stores a program for permitting a personal computer to function as a data managing device for use in combination with the data processing device as claimed in claim 1, the personal computer including a nonvolatile storage medium that stores image data, and the program comprising:

a program of making a judgment as to whether or not the image data has been stored in the external storage device in the data processing device;

10 a program of duplicating the image data stored in the external storage device into the nonvolatile storage medium if the image data has been stored in the external storage device; and

15 a program of deleting the image data having been stored in the external storage device from the external storage device after duplicating the image data into the nonvolatile storage medium.